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SUBJECT: MEDIA REACTION REPORT - PRESIDENT BUSH SPEECH ON IRAQ  
IRAN ITER - A EUROPEAN SUCCESS STORY  
PARIS - WEDNESDAY, JUNE 29, 2005

(A) SUBJECTS COVERED IN TODAY'S REPORT:

- [1](#)1. PRESIDENT BUSH SPEECH ON IRAQ
- [1](#)2. IRAN
- [1](#)3. ITER - A EUROPEAN SUCCESS STORY

B) SUMMARY OF COVERAGE:

TODAY'S ALMOST UNANIMOUS LEAD STORY REVOLVES AROUND THE SELECTION OF CADARACH, (FRANCE) AS THE VENUE FOR THE ITER THERMO-NUCLEAR REACTOR. POPULAR RIGHT-OF-CENTER LE PARISIEN GIVES THE TONE WITH "ITER: GOOD NEWS, FINALLY!" ECHOING MOST REPORTS AND COMMENTARIES, SUCH AS LIBERATION'S EDITORIAL WHICH STARTS: "EUROPE DID NOT DIE ON MAY 29." THE "SYMBOLISM" OF ITER FOR A UNITED EUROPE MARCHING TOWARDS THE FUTURE IS NOTED BY SEVERAL COMMENTATORS, WHO NEVERTHELESS POINT TO THE COST OF THE PROJECT. LE FIGARO TITLES ITS EDITORIAL: "ITER, THE COST OF A SYMBOL." (SEE PART C) IN ITS BROAD REPORT, LE MONDE CARRIED THIS COMMENTARY: "IT WAS NECESSARY TO WAIT FOR PRESIDENT BUSH'S REELECTION AND THE WARMING OF FRANCO-AMERICAN RELATIONS BEFORE SEEING THE U.S. ADOPT A POSITION OF NEUTRALITY IN THE COMPETITION BETWEEN FRANCE AND JAPAN. AT WHICH POINT JAPAN KNEW IT HAD LOST. MAYBE PRESIDENT CHIRAC'S SUPPORT FOR JAPAN AS A PROSPECTIVE NEW PERMANENT MEMBER OF THE UNSC WEIGHED IN THE BALANCE."

IN OTHER NEWS, PRESIDENT BUSH'S SPEECH LAST EVENING IS NOT WIDELY REPORTED BECAUSE OF THE TIME DIFFERENCE. LE FIGARO TITLES ITS STORY "BUSH DEFENDS AMERICA'S PRESENCE IN IRAQ," WHILE RADIO COMMENTATOR BERNARD GUETTA SUGGESTS THAT "BECAUSE PRESIDENT BUSH IS IN A DIFFICULT POSITION AT HOME AND IN IRAQ, HE IS CALLING ON AMERICANS TO RALLY BEHIND HIM." (SEE PART C) LEFT-OF-CENTER LIBERATION AND POPULAR RIGHT-OF-CENTER FRANCE SOIR REPORT BRIEFLY ON U.S. "TORTURE BOATS" WHICH LIBERATION CALLS "FLOATING GUANTANAMOS." LIBERATION COMMENTS: "THESE FLOATING PRISONS ARE IN INTERNATIONAL WATERS, ALLOWING INTERROGATION OF PRISONERS WITHOUT THE CONSTRAINT OF THE LAW." LIBERATION BASES ITS STORY ON OFFICIAL STATEMENTS COMING FROM THE UN. COMMUNIST L'HUMANITE REPORTS ON THE ALLEGED KIDNAPPING AND TORTURE OF IMAM ABU AMAR IN ITALY BY THE CIA IN FEBRUARY 2003, "A MONTH BEFORE THE INVASION OF IRAQ."

IRAN'S "REGRESSION" IS THE TOPIC OF LE MONDE'S EDITORIAL (SEE PART).

A BRIEF ITEM IN ECONOMIC LA TRIBUNE IS TITLED "WHAT IF AIRBUS WERE TO BECOME AMERICAN?" THE STORY IS BASED ON A RECENT AND CONFIDENTIAL STUDY SHOWING THE "GROWING HOLD ANGLO-SAXON

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INVESTMENT HAS IN FRANCE'S AEROSPACE SECTOR." ACCORDING TO THE STUDY, "40 PERCENT OF AN AIRBUS IS ALREADY MANUFACTURED BY COMPANIES UNDER AMERICAN INFLUENCE." THE ARTICLE ALSO NOTES THAT "SUB-CONTRACTORS NEED INVESTMENTS, BUT FRENCH INVESTORS ARE NOT RUSHING TO INVEST."

(C) SUPPORTING TEXT/BLOCK QUOTES:

PRESIDENT BUSH SPEECH ON IRAQ

"PRESIDENT BUSH'S APPEAL"  
BERNARD GUETTA ON GOVERNMENT-RUN FRANCE INTER RADIO (06/29):  
"VIOLENCE IN IRAQ IS NOT WANING. IF FACT IT IS GROWING.  
PRESIDENT BUSH IS FACING DIFFICULTIES ON TWO FRONTS, AT HOME AND IN IRAQ. THIS IS WHY YESTERDAY HE WAS CALLING ON AMERICANS TO STAND BEHIND HIM. HIS ENTIRE SPEECH WAS BUILT AROUND THE IDEA THAT THE U.S. WAS WAGING A WAR IN IRAQ IN ANSWER TO THE DECLARATION OF WAR OF 9/11. BUT WHAT TO DO NOW THAT MANY AMERICANS, AS THE PRESIDENT HIMSELF NOTED, 'ARE WONDERING IF THE SACRIFICES ARE WORTHWHILE'? HIS ANSWER IS 'TO CONTINUE TO BEAR THE BURDEN.' THE CONSTRAINTS ON THE GROUND LIMIT THE PRESIDENT'S MARGIN OF MANEUVER, WHILE REALITY POINTS ALSO TO THE HUGE ERROR OF THE ADVENTURE AS THE TRAP CLOSES IN ON THE U.S. THE AMERICANS CAN NO LONGER AFFORD TO LOSE THIS WAR. IT WOULD BE A CATASTROPHE FOR THEM AND FOR THE WORLD. BUT CAN THEY WIN IT WITHOUT INCREASING THEIR MILITARY EFFORT.? AND BY INCREASING IT, MIGHT THEY NOT MIRE THEMSELVES EVEN MORE? BY

ATTACKING A DICTATOR WHO WAS OUT OF BREATH, THE U.S. EXPECTED AN EASY VICTORY SERVING ITS PSYCHOLOGICAL AND MILITARY PRESTIGE. BUT THEY HAVE OPENED A NEW BATTLEGROUND AT THE HEART OF THE MIDDLE EAST WHERE TERRORISTS ARE FINDING NEW ALLIES AND RENEWED YOUTH. LAST EVENING GEORGE BUSH WANTED TO BE REASSURING. IT IS NOT CERTAIN HE SUCCEEDED."

"BUSH DEFENDS AMERICA'S PRESENCE IN IRAQ"

JEAN-LOUIS TURLIN IN RIGHT-OF-CENTER LE FIGARO (06/29): "LAST EVENING PRESIDENT BUSH TOOK A CHANCE. THE VENUE HE CHOSE RECALLED THE ONE CHOSEN ON MAY 1ST 2003 TO ANNOUNCE THE END OF THE WAR. BUT THIS TIME THE PRESIDENT DID NOT WAVE THE FLAG: THE FIGURES OF AMERICAN CASUALTIES SPEAK OF THEMSELVES: 91.5 PERCENT OF U.S. LOSSES HAVE OCCURRED SINCE THE `END OF THE PRINCIPAL OPERATIONS.' AFTER THE LATEST U.S. POLLS, IT WAS TIME FOR THE PRESIDENT TO RALLY HIS TROOPS, BOTH LITERALLY AND FIGURATIVELY. AS WELL AS ASK, WITH HUMILITY, FOR THE PATIENCE AND SUPPORT OF HIS FELLOW AMERICANS. HAVING BEEN DEPRIVED OF HIS MAIN ARGUMENT IN THE TOPPLING OF SADDAM HUSSEIN, I.E. WMD, PRESIDENT BUSH IS USING THE DEMOCRATIZATION OF IRAQ AS HIS WAR CRY. SINCE THE TRANSFER OF POWER, BUSH HAS REGISTERED SOME SUCCESSES: THE ELECTION OF A LEGITIMATE IRAQI GOVERNMENT. AND THE SUPPORT OF EUROPEANS LIKE SCHROEDER. BUT A VICTIM OF HIS OWN RHETORIC, THE AMERICAN PRESIDENT IS NOW CONFRONTING WHAT JO BIDEN CALLS A `LACK OF CREDIBILITY.'"

IRAN

"IRAN'S REGRESSION"

LEFT-OF-CENTER LE MONDE IN ITS EDITORIAL (06/29): "THE ELECTION OF AN ULTRA-CONSERVATIVE IN IRAN IS BAD NEWS FOR THE IRANISANS, FOR THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY. AND THE ISLAMIC REPUBLIC. AT LEAST RAFSANDJANI HAD A PROGRAM, SUCH AS UPHOLDING CIVIL LIBERTIES. PURSUING THE DIALOGUE WITH THE EUROPEAN AND BEGINNING NORMALIZATION WITH THE U.S. THIS APPROACH TOWARDS LESSENING TENSIONS WITH THE U.S. COULD HAVE FACILITATED THE RESOLUTION OF THE NUCLEAR ISSUE. ON THE CONTRARY, AHMADINEJAD'S ELECTION OPENS THE DOOR TO TENSION ON THE INTERNATIONAL FRONT. HE HAS ALWAYS DEFINED HIMSELF WITH RESPECT TO HIS STAUNCH OPPOSITION TO THE U.S. IRAN'S STANCE REMAINS THE SAME: IT WANTS TO RETAIN THE OPTION TO BUILD THE BOMB. AHMADINEJAD'S ELECTION IS ONE MORE ELEMENT OF TENSION AND DEFIANCE IN THE NUCLEAR ISSUE. THIS ELECTION MARKS ALSO THE RETURN TO A UNIFORMITY OF POWER: THE CONSERVATIVES ARE NOW REIGNING AT ALL LEVELS OF A REGIME WHICH UNTIL NOW HAD SEVERAL NERVE CENTERS."

ITER - A EUROPEAN SUCCESS STORY

"ITER, THE PRICE OF A SYMBOL"

PHILIPPE RECLUS IN RIGHT-OF-CENTER LE FIGARO (06/29): "A COUNTRY IN THE THROES OF DOUBT CANNOT IGNORE GOOD NEWS. ITER IS A VICTORY FOR `THE MADE IN FRANCE' LOGO. AND THIS SUCCESS, WHILE MAINLY SYMBOLIC, COULD NOT HAVE COME AT A BETTER TIME. BUT ITER REMAINS A GLOBAL PROJECT EVEN IF IT IS LOCATED IN FRANCE. ONLY INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION CAN ALLOW IT TO PROGRESS. PARTNERSHIPS ARE THE ANSWER FOR THE FUTURE. NOW WE WILL NEED TO ASSESS THE RATIO BETWEEN THE COST AND ECONOMIC RETURNS."

"WORTH THE CANDLE?"

JEAN-MICHEL THENARD IN LEFT-OF-CENTER LIBERATION (06/29): "EUROPE DID NOT DIE ON MAY 29. THE OLD CONTINENT IS PUTTING UP A FIGHT, LIKE THE OLD PRESIDENT. ITER BECOMES THE SYMBOL OF FRANCE'S PRESENCE IN RESEARCH AND TECHNOLOGY. FRANCE NEEDED THIS TO PROVE IT HAD NOT TURNED ITS BACK ON THE FUTURE. CHIRAC HAS HIS SYMBOL, AND SO DOES EUROPE. WHEN IT IS POLITICALLY UNITED, EUROPE CAN TRIUMPH OVER THE U.S. AND ITS ALLIES, EVEN IF IT NEEDS TO COMPROMISE TO DO SO. BUT THE QUESTION REMAINS: ARE ALL THESE SYMBOLS WORTH THE CANDLE?"

"GLOBAL RESEARCH"

DOMINIQUE QUINIO IN CATHOLIC LA CROIX (06/29): "CHIRAC PRAISED FRANCE'S VICTORY AS A `VICTORY FOR THE WORLD.' THE BRITISH AMBASSADOR TO FRANCE CALLED IT `A GOOD RESULT FOR EUROPE.' TO THE END, EUROPEAN SOLIDARITY PROVED UNSHAKABLE, ALLOWING FRANCE TO WIN AGAINST JAPAN, WHICH HAD THE SUPPORT OF THE U.S. THE NEW GAME OF UNION AND ALLIANCES IS THE NAME OF THE GAME TODAY, AS PROVEN WITH GALILEO. AND IN SPITE OF THE CRITICISM HEARD ABOUT ITER. CRITICISM THAT, IN TIME, WILL NEED TO BE ADDRESSED." WOLFF